

United States Embassy Maputo, Mozambique
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Criminal Activity in Maputo
September 10, 2016

The U.S. Embassy alerts U.S. citizens to the rise in criminal activity in Maputo in recent months. Reports of thefts from unoccupied vehicles and robberies of persons have increased. Activity by a serial sexual assault suspect has also been reported. Most of the vehicle-related thefts involve removal of mirrors and lights and it appears that etching these items with license plate information no longer deters these thieves.

A serial armed robbery and sexual assault suspect is at large in the city. The suspect targets women who are home alone during the day. He frequently claims to be a plumber, electrician, or neighbor in order to gain access to their residences. He has been connected to at least four similar attacks in the area of Julius Nyerere between 24 July and Mao Tse Tung including Eduardo Mondlane. The suspect observes his targets for days or weeks before knocking on their door to advise of work he is doing nearby, and tells them they might see an interruption in their electricity or water. He then returns a few days later to ask if the occupant has experienced problems with their utilities related to the repair work. That familiarity creates a false sense of security so that when he returns claiming water pipes or electrical outlets must be checked he is allowed into the home where he assaults and robs his victims. In at least one case the suspect has claimed to be a neighbor stating that water was seeping into his apartment below and that he must turn off their water because his apartment was flooding. He is described as a light-skinned, well-spoken Mozambican man, approximately six feet tall. He is usually seen wearing a uniform and presents government credentials. He is also said to be working with an accomplice who takes ATM cards and threatens victims who refuse to give him pin codes for their accounts.

The U.S. Embassy is working with local authorities who hope to identify these individuals and make an arrest in the near future. U.S. citizens living in the Maputo downtown area should not allow access to anyone they are not expecting and should immediately contact building security and the police if anyone appears unannounced requesting access to their building or apartment.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Mozambique Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, located at 193, Avenida Kenneth Kaunda, at (+258) 21-49-2797, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (+258) 84-306-6480.
- Call [1-888-407-4747](#) toll-free in the United States and Canada or [1-202-501-4444](#) from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
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